

RESEARCH THEME

XLII Cycle – a.y. 2026/2027

Title of the doctoral research	Situated Craft: Indigenous Knowledge and Design Practices for Regenerative Ecologies
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Abstract

This research examines how indigenous knowledge and craft-based material cultures can inform situated design practices that support regenerative social, cultural and environmental ecologies. It positions craft not as a static or nostalgic form of heritage, but as a dynamic and evolving system of localised knowledge, adaptive practices, and resilient modes of making embedded in communities and ecosystems

The research question is: How can design practices engage with indigenous knowledge and craft-based material cultures in ways that are ethically grounded, context-responsive, and capable of fostering regenerative ecological and socio-cultural systems?

Adopting a design-led and practice-based approach, the project investigates relationships between craft, situated materials, embodied techniques, and traditional ecological knowledge. It aims to reframe craft as a site of innovation, generating alternative design paradigms grounded in context, reciprocity, and care

The research explores how designers can engage ethically with these knowledge systems, addressing questions of authorship, agency, and knowledge exchange. In doing so, it seeks to contribute to cultural continuity, biodiversity, and sustainable, distributed models of production and consumption

The expected outcomes include material libraries and design methodologies that support, context-responsive, and regenerative futures, foregrounding material intelligence, interdependence, and the cultural significance of making

Keywords

Situated Craft; Indigenous Knowledge; Regenerative Design